United Nations A/55/904

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 April 2001
English
Original: English/Russian

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 29, 60, 92, 95, 105, 114 and 164

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Macroeconomic policy questions

Environment and sustainable development

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 12 April 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, signed in Moscow on 30 March 2001 (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be distributed as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 29, 60, 92, 95, 105, 114 and 164.

(*Signed*) Gediminas **Serksnys**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 30 March 2001

President Valdas Adamkus of the Republic of Lithuania and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation,

Building on the traditions of good neighbourly relations, multifaceted cultural ties and centuries long coexistence of Lithuania and Russia,

Welcoming positive trends in the development of bilateral relations during the past years and noting the importance of good neighbourly co-operation between Lithuania and Russia to the strengthening of confidence and stability in the Baltic Sea region and Europe at the start of the new millennium,

Adhering to the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations Organisation and being guided by the norms and principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter for European Security and other documents of the Organisation for Security and Stability in Europe, the Statute of the Council of Europe and the Treaty of 29 July 1991 on the Foundations of Inter-State Relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic,

Attaching particular importance to the participation in the implementation of projects of multilateral co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, including the projects within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the "Northern Dimension" of the European Union, and emphasising mutual determination to develop further regional co-operation,

Have declared:

Lithuania and Russia speak for a more active bilateral dialogue at all levels, in which an important role should be played by deepening contacts between the highest executive bodies of the two states, the relations between the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and further development of co-operation between regional and local authorities of Lithuania and Russia as they significantly contribute to the strengthening of confidence and mutual understanding.

The Parties recognise the right of each and every state to choose its security arrangements, committing at the same time not to strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other states.

The Parties attach great importance to the broadening and strengthening of co-operation and interaction in the development of the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation, including the context of the future enlargement of the European Union.

The Parties will pay a particular attention to ensuring, on the mutual basis and in accordance with international obligations, maximum possible freedom of movement

of the residents of the Republic of Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region across the state border of the two states. The Parties will consider the possibilities to improve further the existing bilateral legal framework regulating transport and transit across the territory of the two states, including military transit and carriage of dangerous goods, energy resources and other freight. Proposals concerning the harmonisation of railway tariffs will be developed in order to increase overall transit flows through the seaports of Klaipėda and the Kaliningrad region. The instruments under the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Long-Term Co-operation Between the Regions of the Republic of Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation, which was signed on 29 June 1999, will be utilised more actively in order to expand all-round relations with Kaliningrad.

The Parties note the great significance of the Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation Concerning the State Border between Lithuania and Russia and the Treaty Concerning Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf in the Baltic Sea, which were signed on 24 October 1997. The Russian Party will make efforts to complete the ratification process of these documents.

The Parties will conduct wider consultations on topical issues of international policy and will continue to co-operate on the issues of mutual interest within the framework of international organisations.

Lithuania and Russia are convinced that the United Nations Organisation should continue to play in the 21st century a primary role in regulating the international relations. They emphasise the importance of the reform of the United Nations to the further increase of its effectiveness and ability to strengthen international peace and security.

Recognising the importance of the OSCE role in maintaining common and comprehensive security and stability in Europe free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security, Lithuania and Russia confirm the necessity for all states to abide strictly by the norms, principles and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations Organisation, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter for European Security and other OSCE documents. The Parties pledge to contribute to the strengthening of OSCE effectiveness.

Welcoming the development of co-operation on the basis of equality and good neighbourly relations in the Baltic Sea region as a constituent part of building a united Europe, the Parties will interact in the Council of the Baltic Sea States and will continue to promote the implementation of the joint projects within the framework of the Nida Initiatives. They will develop new proposals aimed at practical realisation of the EU's Northern Dimension Initiative.

Within the framework of bilateral relations, more active use will be made of the Lithuanian-Russian Intergovernmental Commission as a universal mechanism for the preparation and co-ordination of solutions concerning specific issues of common interest relating to commercial, economic, scientific and technological, humanitarian and cultural co-operation.

Emphasising the importance of economic development to the creation of conditions which have influence on the growth of well being of the peoples of Lithuania and Russia, the Parties will undertake measures necessary for the promotion of projects and initiatives designed to achieve the above mentioned goals.

The Parties note with satisfaction the tendency towards the growth of trade between Lithuania and Russia. Further efforts will be undertaken to create the environment favourable for the development of bilateral trade. The Parties declare their readiness to expand co-operation in this area on the basis of the principles of the World Trade Organisation and to promote the most rapid enforcement of the signed treaties and agreements.

The Parties note the significance of co-operation in the field of transit and energy sector and express their intention to develop mutually beneficial relations in these areas, as well as to interact in the implementation of transport and energy infrastructure projects. Lithuania and Russia will take an active part in the realisation of energy co-operation projects in the Baltic Sea region.

The Parties attach great importance to co-operation in conducting long-term environmental monitoring, including sea monitoring. Lithuania and Russia pledge to co-operate in the field of environmental protection and in the area of accident prevention, notification and elimination of the consequences of accidents.

In accordance with international obligations, they will undertake concrete measures designed to improve interaction in conducting search and rescue operations at sea.

Lithuania and Russia consider that it is necessary to continue the efforts and strengthen in all possible ways bilateral co-operation in the areas of justice and law enforcement, paying a particular attention to the issues concerning fight against international terrorism, trans-border organised crime and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and arms.

The Parties will counteract negative occurrences, such as crime, smuggling and illegal migration, at the border and at the same time shall undertake steps to develop the infrastructure of the border posts and to improve co-operation between border, customs and other authorities.

The Parties welcome recently approved proposals on security and confidence building measures. Lithuania and Russia will undertake further common efforts in this area, including the establishment of contacts between defence structures of the two countries.

The Parties shall pay a particular attention to the preservation and development of the national identity of the Lithuanian and Russian national minorities residing in the territory of both the countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities adopted by the Council of Europe in 1995, and will co-operate in this area.

Welcoming the decision of UNESCO to include the Couronian Spit, as a joint project of Lithuania and Russia, into the World Heritage List, the Parties accord importance to the realisation of joint initiatives in this area.

Being aware of the importance of direct human contacts and a wide social dialogue between Lithuania and Russia to the further strengthening of co-operation in the fields of culture, science and education, the Parties support the initiative to establish a foundation for the promotion of the implementation of humanitarian projects.

Valdas Adamkus
President
Republic of Lithuania

Vladimir Putin
President
Russian Federation